

Why Are You Not A Communicant?

(The following article appeared in the Christian Instructor, published in 1877, a copy of which was handed us a few days ago by Mrs. David Fulton of Ayr township. Read it carefully, and thoughtfully. Be honest with yourself. Does it not contain much truth?—EDITOR.)

You are convinced of the truth of the Bible, and the binding authority of its precepts. You believe the Christian church to be a divine institution, and its ordinances obligatory. You believe that Christ issued a command that all should obey, when he said, "This do in remembrance of me." Why have you not obeyed it? Why are you yet outside of the visible church? Let us examine some of the pleas commonly urged.

"A man can be as good a Christian out of the church as in it."

If so, why did Christ found the church? Why did he make confession before men as obligatory as faith towards God? Can that man be a good Christian, who disobeys Christ? And, has not Christ enjoined a duty, which can be performed only within the church? If you have never been in the church, can you be a good judge of this question? But God has not left it an open question. He has required you to confess Christ before men in this very way. Can you then be a Christian, and disobey this command?

"I have no faith or obedience."

But are you not bound to believe and obey? And can the failure in these duties excuse the failure in that one? Can one sin justify another? Has not God offered you the grace needful to enable you to believe and obey? and can you plead your neglecting Christ's command? Is not this simply an aggravation of your guilt, rather than an extenuation of it?

"I am not certain that I am a Christian."

You are not asked to profess this fact, but simply to confess your faith in Christ, your sincere repentance of all your sins, your hope of acceptance through Christ alone, and your solemn determination, by the grace of God, to take up your cross and follow Christ. Are you ready to do this? If not, is not the particular in which you are not ready, a sin?

"I am unworthy to come to the Lord's table."

But are you not unworthy to pray, to sing, to read the Bible, to hear the gospel? Are you not unworthy to live on God's earth, and breathe God's air, and enjoy God's bounties? But does this unworthiness prevent you from enjoying these privileges and attempting these duties? Why make this duty of confessing Christ and communing, an exception?

"I am afraid I will bring reproach on the cause of Christ."

If you really are alive to the welfare of Christ's cause, why not look at your present relation to it? Does not that injure it? Has not Christ said, "He that is not with me, is against me." And is not your example urged against the cause of Christ, as far as it has any weight? You may be moral, upright, and blameless, but this very fact makes your example more potent in proving that Christ's institutions and commands are superfluous, in the estimate of the unbelieving. Your morality is placed to the credit of the world and the enemies of Christ, and used as a reproach against the church. Ungodly men point to you as a proof that there is more goodness out of the Church than in it. Are you not then even now bringing reproach on that cause? But are you sure that this is not pride? If you could be an eminent Christian, so that men would praise you for your piety, you would be willing to take the name. But as you may stumble and be a target for shafts of ridicule, you cannot bear to suffer this, even in trying to obey the commands of Christ. But is not that feeling pride? And is not that pride a sin?

"I cannot discharge the duties of a Christian profession."

Have you ever tried? How can you know, then, until you do try? Is it not better to try and fail, than to fail without trying? Is it not nobler to enter the battle and fall, than to be afraid to go on the field? But you do not go to warfare on your own charge, or contend in your own strength. God's grace is sufficient for you and his strength made perfect in

weakness. That strength, however, is not promised before duty, but in it. How can you then get it, if you never try to do the duty? And if you are weak now, when will you ever be stronger? Will you be nearer God, the farther you wander from him? Will your strength grow by weakening it in sin? Will you be better able, when you have quenched the Spirit?

"There are many in the church no better than I am."

But will their sin excuse yours? If they insult Christ in one way, may you insult him in another? Will you be less surely lost out of the Church, because they may be lost in it?

"But there are false professors enough."

You are not asked to be a false professor, but a true one; and the more false ones there are, the more necessity does there exist for true ones.

"I am not good enough."

And who is? And are you good enough to attempt any other duty? Why then, make this an exception?

"I do not feel worthy of this privilege."

If you did, you would probably be unworthy. Christ came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance; not to spread a feast for the full, but for the hungry.

"There is peculiar guilt in unworthy communicating."

But is there not peculiar guilt in refusing to commune? And who can assure you that the one is less than the other? Who can assure you that it is a smaller crime to neglect a duty wholly, than to try to perform it and fail?

"I may eat and drink damnation to myself."

So you will by refusing to eat and drink. The damnation or condemnation is the same in one case that it is in the other, only in trying to do your duty you may escape it; in refusing to try, you make it certain. Then why are you not a communicant?

The Last Heard Of It.

"My little boy took the croup one night and soon grew so bad you could hear him breathe all over the house," says F. D. Reynolds, Mansfield, O. "We feared he would die, but a few doses of One Minute Cough Cure quickly relieved him and he went to sleep. That's the last we heard of the croup. Now isn't a cough cure like that valuable?" One Minute Cough Cure is absolutely safe and acts immediately. For coughs, colds, croup, grip, bronchitis and all other throat and lung troubles it is a certain cure. Very pleasant to take. The little ones like it.

The Sinful Brother.

It was at a certain church meeting, and the bishop was calling for report. He had a rather stern, sharp manner which sometimes jarred a little on the nerves of the more timid. By-and-by he came to Brother B., a lay delegate.

"Brother B., what is the spiritual condition of your church?" demanded the bishop, briskly.

"I consider it good," said the brother.

"What makes you think it's good?" went on the Bishop.

"Well, the people are religious. That's what makes me think so."

"What do you call religious? Do they have family prayer?"

"Some of them do and some do not."

"Do you mean to say that a man may be a Christian, and not hold family prayer?"

"Yes, sir; I think so."

"Do you hold family prayer?"

"Yes, sir," returned the brother quietly.

"And yet you think a man may be a Christian and not hold family prayer?"

"I have a brother who is a better man than I am who does not hold family prayer."

"What makes you think he is a better man than you are?"

"Everybody says so, and I know he is."

"Why does not your brother, if he is such a good man, hold family prayer?" thundered the Bishop.

"He has no family," meekly answered the brother.—Harper's Magazine.

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ELECTION RETURNS.

AYR.

Judge of Election, 59
Robert Gordon, d. 103
Inspector, 103
William Shaw, r. 61
W. C. Marquardt, d. 100
School Directors, 100
Elliott Ray, r. 55
Wm. M. Kendall, r. 60
D. A. Washbaugh, r. 56
David Nelson, d. 100
Tobias Glazier, d. 105
George Blvens, d. 102
Auditor, 102
U. G. Humbert, d. 106
Overseer of the Poor, 106
John Neuroth, r. 58
William Taylor, d. 103
Justice of the Peace, 54
Geo. W. Glenn, r. 54
A. C. Lauver, d. 108
Nicholas Holman, d. 94
Constable, 68
Robert Mellott, r. 68
Calvin Crouse, d. 96
Supervisors, 80
John Bain, r. 80
R. M. Kendall, r. 61
Samuel Mellott, d. 97
John S. Harr, d. 80
Township Clerk, 59
Sanner Ray, r. 59
James Keefer, r. 98
Treasurer, 101
John J. Gordon, d. 101

MCCONNELLSBURG.

Judge of Election, 55
L. D. Thompson, r. 81
J. Frank Sheely, d. 81
Inspector, 80
W. H. Greathead, r. 80
Eli A. Largent, d. 59
School Directors, 71
A. U. Nace, r. 78
D. L. Grissinger, r. 78
Mrs. S. M. Cook, d. 47
Rev. C. M. Smith, d. 39
Auditor, 72
Alvin D. Dalbey, r. 72
David W. Gress, d. 63
Overseer of the Poor, 74
James Voros, r. 49
William H. Bender, d. 49
Burgess, 65
Henry W. Scott, d. 65
Town Council, 79
H. O. Unger, r. 59
Conrad Gress, r. 59
Samuel Bender, Sr., d. 96
Levi Dehart, d. 40
Constable, 75
Nicholas Roetger, r. 75
Virgil F. Sipes, d. 56
High Constable, 10
David I. Fields, r. 7
M. H. Shaffner, d. 1
George Rexroth, d. 1

TAYLOR.

Judge of Election, 58
Jacob Winegardner, r. 60
David Knepper, d. 60
Inspector, 60
Isaac Baker, r. 53
Norris Hoover, d. 53
School Directors, 59
Lewis Shaw, r. 59
Abraham Cutchall, r. 59
James Fields, d. 59
John W. Laidig, d. 60
Auditor, 61
A. N. Witter, r. 61
A. L. Shaw, r. 55
M. L. Kirk, d. 58
B. C. Lamberson, d. 51
Overseer of the Poor, 55
J. W. Cutchall, r. 57
John Henry, d. 57
Constable, 61
Wm. Keebaugh, r. 61
Huston T. Hocter, d. 56
Supervisors, 68
Robert Miller, r. 68
John Hoover, r. 65
George Taylor, d. 50
M. G. Lamberson, d. 48
Township Clerk, 52
Sam Speck, r. 52
C. J. Barton, d. 50

THOMPSON.

Judge of Election, 47
Curtis Sechrist, r. 47
Banner Fisher, d. 76
Inspector, 43
Harvey Comisar, r. 43
Charles Bishop, d. 79
School Directors, 52
Richard Hollenshead, r. 52
Ira Zimmerman, r. 54
David Powell, r. 50
Mae Lidton, d. 72
Andrew Saunders, d. 75
Albert Gordon, d. 63
Auditor, 45
Samuel C. Peck, r. 45
John H. Brewer, d. 77
Overseer of the Poor, 40
Grant Breakal, r. 81
Amos Sharpe, d. 81
Justice of the Peace, 68
J. C. Hewett, r. 68
George W. Fisher, d. 54
Constable, 47
John H. Fisher, r. 81
Emmanuel Keefer, d. 81
Supervisors, 54
Ralph McDonald, r. 54
David Graves, r. 49
Moses Gordon, d. 69
Doyle Morgret, d. 69
Township Clerk, 30
Warner Hensch, r. 30
W. C. Peck, d. 79

TOD.

Judge of Election, 45
Peter Morton, r. 45
John C. Tice, d. 60
Inspector, 45
Albert Colledge, r. 45
Howard Souder, d. 57
School Directors, 40
A. J. Pittman, r. 40
Henry Anderson, r. 39
John W. Gunnelle, d. 64
A. J. Sipes, d. 58
Auditor, 47
Philip Rote, r. 47
William Barmond, d. 55
Overseer of the Poor, 44
Vanvert Kelso, r. 44
David W. Kelso, d. 57
Constable, 54
Thomas Marshall, r. 54
D. Edward Fore, d. 51
Supervisors, 41
David A. Gillis, r. 41
Abram Wagner, r. 45
William Naagle, d. 60
George Plisif, Sr., d. 58
Township Clerk, 38
Frank K. Stevens, r. 38
Ira Fors, d. 61

UNION.

Judge of Election, 72
Wm. Daniel Ritz, r. 41
James Ibea, d. 41
Inspector, 34
James Carson, r. 34
E. C. Hendershot, d. 44
School Directors, 78
James M. McKibbin, r. 78
George Carson, r. 52
Jacob Hammann, r. 40
Jacob Stinitz, d. 53
Alfred Hendershot, d. 53
A. F. Hill, d. 41
Auditor, 64
Calvin A. Foster, r. 64
Edward Sigel, d. 48
Overseer of the Poor, 55
Levi Crawford, r. 55
George Mills, d. 51

BRUSH CREEK.

Judge of Election, 58
C. D. Hixson, r. 58
E. A. Hoopsgardner, d. 63
Inspector, 58
C. W. Spade, r. 58
Harry Plessinger, d. 58
School Directors, 61
Anthony Spade, r. 61
E. D. Akers, r. 56
Levi Smith, d. 56
James C. McKee, d. 60
Auditor, 61
Denton Hoopsgardner, d. 53
Overseer of the Poor, 57
W. H. Walters, r. 57
Isaiah Layton, d. 59
Constable, 60
G. W. Hixson, r. 60
Howard Mellott, d. 63
Supervisors, 65
James A. Diehl, r. 65
M. M. Barton, r. 45
F. M. Lodge, d. 74
Lemuel Smith, d. 49
Township Clerk, 51
M. P. Barton, r. 51
Cary Layton, d. 59

DUBLIN.

Judge of Election, 87
William Galahar, r. 87
Harry Miller, d. 74
Inspector, 81
John McCoy, r. 81
William Greer, d. 72
School Directors, 93
Grant Baker, r. 103
Benjamin White, r. 61
E. M. Gelvin, d. 61
George H. Wilson, d. 59
Auditor, 69
Samuel Reese, r. 69
A. J. Fore, d. 85
Overseer of the Poor, 84
Harrison Cutchall, r. 84
L. K. Cline, d. 75
Constable, 95
Joseph Snider, r. 95
Emmanuel Sipes, d. 61
Supervisor, 82
Carl Galahar, r. 82
George W. Locke, r. 84
John A. Long, d. 84
Samuel Bowman, d. 78
Township Clerk, 77
Henry Wilson, r. 77
Wm. Evans, d. 75

LICKING CREEK.

Judge of Election, 85
L. M. Hookensmith, r. 85
R. R. Sipes, d. 94
Inspector, 85
R. R. Hann, r. 85
Joseph Sipes, d. 99
School Directors, 68
Milton Dacker, r. 68
Dr. S. B. Hoop, r. 65

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

George Miller, r. 54
G. A. Shenk, d. 56
Constable, 45
F. Hayes Lushler, r. 45
Nathan Wigfield, d. 65
Superisors, 35
Samuel C. Hendershot, r. 35
Albert C. Schetrompf, r. 78
Wm. Smith, d. 35
C. W. Hendershot, d. 63
Township Clerk, 64
Wm. L. Gloger, r. 64
C. A. Sigel, d. 46

WELLS.

Judge of Election, 45
J. L. Davall, r. 45
W. R. Foster, d. 60
Inspector, 49
J. W. Gibson, r. 49
Jesse Ake, d. 60
School Directors, 58
C. H. E. Plummer, r. 58
Jas. W. Barnett, r. 51
A. D. Hockstetter, r. 49
W. B. Stunkard, d. 49
Jacob S. Black, d. 55
J. F. Early, d. 59
Auditor, 56
A. S. Greenland, r. 56
W. R. Keith, d. 50
Overseer of the Poor, 50
G. A. Stewart, r. 50
J. H. Gracey, d. 55
Justice of the Peace, 37
W. L. Cunningham, r. 37
James A. McDonough, d. 72
Constable, 50
W. R. Anderson, r. 50
J. Cal. Foster, d. 55
Supervisors, 45
J. C. Alexander, r. 45
Thos. Worthing, r. 64
Wm. L. Sprowl, d. 46
Wm. Alloway, d. 65
Township Clerk, 51
J. R. Lockard, r. 51
F. G. Mills, d. 49

How Mamma Punished Harold.

"Speaking of punishment for youthful offenders against school discipline, reminds me of an experience I had less than a year ago," said a pedagogue whose connection with the New York city schools extends over a long period of time.

"The boy's reputation had followed him to my class-room from several private schools, to which his indulgent mamma had sent him and from which he had been politely requested to depart. He was not one of those street arabs who often come into a class-room with quaint and impractical ideas of order, but one of that too numerous type known as 'mamma's baby.' The rod had been spared, so he was a 'spoiled child.'

"While his classmates counted their candy money in nickels and dimes, he carried quarters and half-dollars, with plenty of the 'long green' to replenish his supply of change at all times.

"Ordinarily the possession of such wealth would make a boy the idol of his class, but this was an extraordinary boy in that he possessed, with his plentiful supply of cash, an indefinable trait which made him disliked by his fellow pupils and a 'thorn in the flesh' of his teacher.

"Child study had long been my special hobby, but this child presented a problem too knotty for my methods of solution. As a last resort I consulted the principal. The principal directed his clerk to send for the parents of the inveterate transgressor.

"On the following day the school was honored by a visit from the very much surprised if not indignant mamma. Mamma, boy, principal and teacher repaired to the privacy of the principal's sanctum for a council of war.

"Said the principal: 'Harold, you have been a bad boy. What have you to say?'

"Harold: 'I have nothing to say.'"

"Mamma (adjusting glasses and looking very firm): 'Harold, your conduct has forced me to climb these four long flights of stairs. I am grieved and shocked. If you do not mend your ways I shall send you to Europe.'

"Harold seemed to be planning a coup de grace and smiled in anticipation. I sighed in deep despair.

"The principal, after a struggle to control his risibles, calmly assured mamma that the threatened banishment would no doubt have a most salutary effect on Harold's future behavior.

"Harold is now sojourning in Europe."—New York Times.

"Can you tell me what kind of weather we may expect next?" wrote a farmer to the editor of the county papers, and the editor replied as follows: "It is my belief that the weather next month will be near like your subscription bill." The farmer wondered for an hour what the editor was driving at, then he happened to think of the word "unsettled." He sent a postal note.

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